

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05271 211023Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 /076 W
-----069582 211300Z /50

R 211020Z MARR78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9309
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSYTISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05271

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, PK
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO BHUTTO SENTENCING

REF: 77 MOSCOW 18141

1. MARCH 18 IZVESTIYA AND MARCH 19 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRY BRIEF STRAIGHT-FORWARD MARCH 18 TASS ARTICLE FROM ISLAMABAD ON BHUTTO'S DEATH SENTENCE. ARTICLE REPORTS LAHORE COURT FOUND BHUTTO AND FOUR EMPLOYEES OF THE PAKISTAN SPECIAL SERVICES GUILTY OF PARTICIPATION IN A POLITICAL MURDER AND GAVE THEM THE DEATH SENTENCE. ARTICLE STATES THAT BHUTTO DENIED HIS GUILT AND THAT THE SENTENCE WILL PROBABLY BE APPEALED.

2. MARCH 19 LAHORE DATELINED PRAVDA ARTICLE CARRIES THREE SENTENCE STORY FROM PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT ENTITLED "COURT VERDICT." ARTICLE STATES THAT BHUTTO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF ASSASSINATING M. KHAN, FATHER OF A PAKISTANI POLITICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05271 211023Z

FIGURE; THAT THE VERDICT IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE PAKISTAN SUPREME COURT; AND THAT THE SITUATION IN LAHORE IS TENSE. MARCH 20 TASS STORY DATELINED KARACHI IN MARCH 21 PRAVDA REPORTS BHUTTO SENTENCING HAS STIRRED DEMONSTRATIONS IN A NUMBER OF CITIES AND STUDENT-POLICE CLASHES IN LAHORE.

3. COMMENT: SOVIET PUBLIC COMMENT SYMPATHETIC TO BHUTTO HAS PROGRESSIVELY DIMINISHED AS THE ZIA REGIME HAS "SETTLED IN" IN ISLAMABAD. EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL CRITICISMS OF PAKISTAN FOR ALLEGEDLY FACILITATING WHAT SOVIET PRESS HAS CHARGED WERE PRC ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOMALI (REFTEL), SOVIET MEDIA COMMENT ON PAKISTAN HAS BEEN RESTRAINED. WE SUSPECT THAT SOVIETS ARE UNWILLING TO RISK FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE ZIA REGIME BY EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR BHUTTO. SOVIET SILENCE MAY ALSO BE BASED ON SOVIET SATISFACTION AT PAKISTANI PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL TREND TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS AMONG SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES REFLECTED IN RECENT TRIPS BY DAOUD, VAJPAYEE AND BANGLADESH'S PRESIDENT ZIA, WHICH SOVIETS HAVE HAILED IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENT. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, DEATHS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW05271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0259
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803123/aaaaffve.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 3b605ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 18141
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3163681
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970812
Subject: SOVIET REACTION TO BHUTTO SENTENCING
TAGS: PINS, PK, UR, PINT, SOPN, (BHUTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b605ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014